

NOVEL WILL BE RETURNED--OHIO

No Restrictions Wanted,
Says McElroy

T.P. 5/10/67
The Ohio governor's office gave assurances Tuesday that assassination investigation witness Gordon Novel will be returned as soon as proper extradition papers are received from Louisiana.

John McElroy, assistant to Gov. James A. Rhodes, said his office is not attempting to keep Novel from testifying in District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The assurance was made in spite of a recent letter from McElroy requesting that a written statement disclaiming that Novel was sought for investigation testimony accompany his extradition papers.

"If your governor will get the papers in order," Gov. Rhodes will return him," McElroy declared Tuesday, adding, "Why don't we get this show on the road and quit talking about it?"

SURPRISE VOICED

Assistant district attorney James L. Alcock expressed surprise at the latest McElroy statement and pointed to the previous disclaimer request.

Alcock said papers for Novel and former New Orleans anti-Castro leader Sergio Arcacha Smith were being perfected, and that he hoped to mail them to Gov. McKeithen Tuesday.

Alcock said the Novel extradi-

tion papers will be "legally proper within the framework of extradition proceedings," and will not bear the requested disclaimer.

Arcacha Smith and Novel extradition proceedings spring from charges of conspiracy to commit simple burglary of a munitions bunker near Houma.

McElroy denied that his office had been pressured into slowing or halting Novel's extradition when asked of the possibility. "That's a ridiculous question," he said.

"Perhaps you should read the letter," McElroy told a reporter. Informed that a reporter had read it, McElroy asserted: "He'd better read it again. He misinterpreted it."

BOTH OUT ON BOND

Both sought men are free on the burglary conspiracy charge, Novel on a \$10,000 bond in Columbus, Ohio, and Arcacha Smith on a \$1,500 bond in Dallas, Tex.

Technical deficiencies were sighted by each state as reasons for returning extradition papers previously sent.

Meanwhile, one of Arcacha Smith's former close associates is scheduled to appear before the grand jury Wednesday.

The subpoenaed man, Carlos Quiroga, 30, 3134 Derby pl., said Tuesday that he is "convinced that Oswald was a Communist, and added that he has "proofs" to this effect.

His subpoena was served Monday, the day after Garrison charged the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation with collaborating in conceal-

ing the facts of the assassination from the Warren Commission.

Left out of the material presented to the commission, Garrison said, was significant evidence of Lee Harvey Oswald's associations with anti-Castro elements in New Orleans.

Sources in New Orleans said Monday that Quiroga was involved with an anti-Castro organization which Arcacha Smith headed.